

House Bill 649

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56th, Abrams of the 84th, Porter of the 143rd, Hugley of the 133rd, Smyre of the 132nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-2-161 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, so as to provide that no voucher, school choice, or scholarship program shall be implemented or enforced unless the Quality Basic Education Formula is fully funded by the General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 20-2-161 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, is amended by revising subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) The high school general education program is declared to be the base program against which the cost of all other instructional programs shall be compared. The amount of funds needed by each full-time equivalent student in the base program, in order that such program can be sufficiently funded to provide quality basic education to all enrolled students, shall be known as the 'base amount' and shall reflect program components which constitute the program weight for the high school general education program in Code Sections 20-2-182 through 20-2-186. However, the General Assembly shall annually establish through the General Appropriations Act the base amount to be used each year. In the event that the base amount so established when multiplied by the program weights in subsection (b) of this Code section requires funds in excess of the appropriation for the Quality Basic Education Formula grants, the funds which are appropriated for the Quality Basic Education Formula shall be prorated to each of the Quality Basic Education Formula cost categories. No voucher, school choice, scholarship, or similar program whereby state funds are transferred to a nonpublic school shall be implemented or enforced unless the full

24 funding for local school systems required by this article is appropriated by the General
25 Assembly."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.